

A photograph of a cliffside with a cave opening and a building below. The cliff is light-colored and textured, with some greenery growing on it. The cave opening is a dark, irregular shape. Below the cave, there is a building with several arched openings. The building appears to be made of stone or concrete. There are some wires and cables hanging across the scene. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is a mix of natural and man-made elements.

ROBIN ANTUNES
&
BENJAMIN GARSON

"TRABLOS"

PRÉSENTATION

LISTEN

Robin Antunes : violin and prepared 5-strings violin

Benjamin Garson : guitar and prepared guitar

"TRABLOS"

This music was created during a month-long residency in Tripoli, Lebanon, as part of the Villa Al Qamar program run by the French Institute of Lebanon. The music of "Trablos" is a true sound immersion in the acoustic environment of the capital of the North, with all the intensity of its distortions and the colors of its chaos, alternating between frenetic rhythms in anguish, but also of ingenuousness and Mediterranean splendor. The absolutely unprecedented character of these compositions, in a style blending experimental jazz and recreated city sounds, should leave its mark in the history of contemporary music resulting from a rapprochement between Lebanon and France.

"Through these compositions, it is the story of all those people with whom we shared our daily lives for a month that we bring to the stage with us: moments of celebration but also of sorrow, touching testimony on themes of exile or the search for the identity of a people in times of crisis, a conception of the highway code that is... astounding or more generally the paradoxes of everyday life that are omnipresent in a country in full economic collapse. It is also our way as improvisers and composing musicians to give them another identity and to make this small community that welcomed and completely integrated us upon our arrival cross borders.

It is their story that we play, that of these people stuck in their country that is slowly fragmenting, torn between flight and the hope of better days at home, and who despite the chaos and constant uncertainty of tomorrow have in them a resilience and dazzling humanity."

Mixing music recorded in several iconic places in Tripoli such as the Ezzedine hammam, the Armenian church of Beit El Fan, or the traditional 18th century Ottoman architecture preserved in Beit El Nessim, and field recordings captured in specific social meeting places (old souk of Tripoli, Al Tal square, Rachid Karami International Fair dome), this album is a sound work dedicated to the city, its history, its present, and the humans who live in it today. A true witness of a very particular period in Lebanon, it aims to be a phonic interpretation by a duo of European improvising artists, linking the expression of a rich historical culture and the synchronous reality of a local community, between its poetry and its poverty, its light and its traumas.

PRÉSENTATION

LISTEN

THE GENESIS

Robin Antunes and Benjamin Garson, both alumni of the CNSMD in Paris, have been collaborating on various projects for several years. However, it was during their tenure with the National Jazz Orchestra (**ONJ**) starting in February 2021 that their partnership truly took off. Their first official performance as a duo was at a concert at the prestigious **Maison de la Radio** the following month, where they received widespread acclaim from both the press and their fellow orchestra members.

The chemistry between the two musicians was immediately evident, and they quickly began to explore new avenues of improvisation and sound experimentation. Both musicians are well-versed in the use of effect pedals, but for this project, they decided to focus on an **exclusively acoustic treatment** of their instruments. Utilizing materials such as aluminum, duct tape, wood, Chinese sticks, wire and cardboard, they began to experiment with **new ways of approaching traditional instruments**. This **playful** and **creative** approach is a hallmark of their improvisational style.

THE PROCESS

The soundscapes developed by the two performers unfold and evolve through the use of unconventional techniques on two instruments that often have a very traditional representation in popular imagination: the **violin** and the **guitar**.

Here, the intimacy and fragility that a duo can evoke is not meant to accelerate and condense everything. On the contrary, sometimes **time stretches out** by combining repetition with randomness, like an **imaginary** and **mystical ritual**. Other times, through staccato and deconstructed sequences, listeners are invited to imagine elements that **decompose and recompose** themselves according to the improvisations of the two musicians.

The musical intent is ultimately a light and persistent one: to introduce calm and space, rhythm and cadences, textures, and the **resonance of materials** to **think, dream, travel** and **imagine**.

CONCERTS

Upcoming :

Lebanon Tour (TBC) // 05-15 September 2023

Studio de l'Ermitage RELEASE PARTY (Paris, FR) // 03 October 2023

Creative Strings Festival (Lausanne, CH) // 17 November 2023

TBA (Berne, CH) // 18 November 2023

TBA (Zurich, CH) // 19 November 2023

Past :

Onomatopoeia (Beirut, LB) // 10 September 2022

AZM Cultural center - Beit El Fan (Tripoli, LB) // 05 September 2022

MAARAD MUSIC FESTIVAL (Tripoli, LB) // 03 September 2022 - **world premiere**

Warché 13 (Tripoli, LB) // 26 August 2022 - showcase

RADIO FRANCE - Studio 104 (Paris, FR) // 06 March 2021





THE MUSICIANS

BENJAMIN GARSON



Benjamin Garson is a multi-disciplinary artist. Born in 1995, he began playing classical guitar at the age of 7 and gradually discovered rock, jazz, and free improvisation. At the same time, he developed a strong interest in **science** and **sound**. His diverse passions led him to enroll in the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière in sound production in 2015, the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP) in classical guitar in 2017, and in jazz guitar in 2020. He also holds a degree in generative improvisation from the CNSMDP (2021) and is on the verge of obtaining the State Diploma in classical and jazz guitar teaching. He currently teaches classical guitar at the Vincennes conservatory.

He can be found in groups such as **La Cozna** (quartet that oscillates between traditional and improvised music), **In Leaf** (progressive rock trio), **Timelapse** (classical guitar quartet, focused on repetitive music repertoire) and as a composer for musical theater (*Ta Robe cintrée*) or experimental film (*Disruptif*). As a sound engineer, he is responsible for sound recording, mixing, and mastering for a dozen albums ranging from folk music to jazz, rock, and improvised music. Notable albums include those from groups such as Nota Bene, Quiet Oddity, Marsyas, Upside, and Chkhara.

With his **three advanced degrees**, he constantly explores the **dialogue** between music and sound. Inspired by guitarists such as Fred Frith or Hans Tammen, he invented an **electric guitar augmentation system** in April 2018 that allows the musician to control sound spatialization during improvised music performances. He performed the resulting work, *Terraformations*, in various venues (Salle Maurice Fleuret, La Muse en Circuit, etc.). Whether performing at the Cité de la musique, the Gaité Lyrique or in festivals, in his own projects or others (**ONJ** (Anna Livia Plurabelle, *Dancing In Your Heads*, *Dracula*), **Le Balcon**, **l'ONCEIM**), Benjamin is forging a unique and fascinating path in the current music scene. A prolific musician who is not afraid of the most radical aesthetics, he never fails to submerge and take the audience with him, thanks to his refined sound signature, masterful lyricism, material manipulation and remarkable improvisation skills.

ROBIN ANTUNES



Robin Antunes is a young, versatile musician with an insatiable appetite for new musical worlds. He has worked alongside renowned musicians such as **Etienne Mbappé**, **François Jeanneau**, **Cheick Tidiane Seick**, in the **Orchestre National de Jazz** and as a leader with his own group, **Monsieur MÂLÂ**. As a sought-after sideman, he has also been featured alongside artists such as Maher Beauroy, the Ensemble Social Silence, Arcadian, Tony Chasseur, and more recently, Jane Birkin and Grand Corps Malade.

A graduate of the **CNSMD** in **Paris** and holder of a **Master's degree in Jazz and Improvised Music** obtained in June 2021, Robin is constantly seeking new sounds and playing techniques with the violin and mandolin. He has participated in numerous collaborations with artists of various styles and genres, ranging from jazz to French pop, West & North African and Caribbean music, ambient and free improvisation. These varied experiences have allowed him to nourish and develop his **language**, both in the sounds he explores with his instruments and effects pedals, and in the compositions he has produced. He is also a very **versatile** and **curious** musician, able to adapt to various **roles** and **genres** with **precision** and high standards.

In October 2021, he was the winner of the "Mondes Nouveaux" project call by the **Ministry of Culture** for his project to create a large jazz ensemble, "**MONS TUMBA**". This **commissioned project** of writing will be created in Spring 2023 at the Mont Saint-Michel Abbey with a program of compositions related to the architecture, history and acoustics of the place, celebrating its 1000th anniversary.

Since 2019, Robin has been supported by the **Meyer** foundation, the **Nguyen Thien Dao foundation** and the **Société Générale** patronage for his projects, and has won the Transnational Festival 2019 (Berne, CH) award with FUSSYDUCK, the Züblin Preis, the JazzOpen Playground and the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg with MachantMachant.

Open to other artistic disciplines, Robin has also been part of the Pandora Company directed by Brigitte Jaques-Wajeman, in which he played the role of the violinist in "Le Voyage de Benjamin", on tour in France for three consecutive seasons between 2016 and 2019.

PRESS



L'orchestre se retire pour laisser la place à un duo, Robin Antunes (violin) et Benjamin Garson (guitare électrique) pour un libre contrepoint improvisé sur *Think of One* de Thelonious Monk. Ils y réactualisent à leur façon l'art du glissement cher à André Hodeir, selon la logique voulue par Frédéric Maurin en collaboration avec Jean-Charles Richard, de faire dialoguer les générations et les époques au sein de l'ONJ (qui entretient par ailleurs un Orchestre des jeunes, en fait des talents émergents déjà professionnalisés, placés sous la direction d'anciens chefs de l'ONJ). Et c'est assez réjouissant de constater l'éventail de générations (de Garson et Antunes à Caratini et Leloup) réunies autour de ce compositeur né il y a 100 ans et dont le répertoire conserve une belle actualité.

Franck Bergerot - Jazz Magazine

plus que vivant, et inventif. Pour compléter ce programme, Patrice Caratini a prévu une sorte d'interlude, un duo qui associe deux musiciens qui constituent la jeune garde émergente du jazz : le violoniste Robin Antunes et le guitariste Benjamin Garson. Le thème choisi est *Think of One*, de Thelonious Monk, merveille de forme déstructurée (ou déstructurante) : le duo s'en donne à cœur joie, accentuant autant qu'il est possible le goût du discontinu et de l'imprévu. Et pour conclure cette première

Xavier Prevost - "Les dernières nouvelles du Jazz"

Jeu. 8 juillet 2021



59 min

Jazz sur le vif : L'Orchestre National de Jazz joue Hodeir « Autour du Jazz Groupe de Paris »



L'Orchestre National de Jazz à la Maison de la Radio et de la Musique.



France Musique - Jazz sur le vif

Passage dans l'émission Jazz sur le vif du 8 juillet 2021 à partir de 19h37'

[Podcast disponible ici](#)

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LINKS

SoundCloud (for professionals only)

www.soundcloud.com